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## FOREWORD

THE war which broke out in 1914 created a revolution in the attitude of Americans. This revolution was not merely the result of our active participation in the war on the soil of Europe, but involved likewise immense changes in our thoughts. Barring the comparatively few who have come from Syria, I presume most Americans thought of Syria in terms of foreign missions. We knew something of the educational work which had been done in various countries, but it all seemed apart from our life. After four years of conflict the world now seems very small to us. The statements which come to us have been so diverse and conflicting that it has been impossible to get a clear vision. Nevertheless, we are conscientiously endeavoring to interpret what has taken place and we are striving to know what existing conditions are.

In planning for this volume the above facts were kept in mind and the officers of the Academy sought to obtain first-hand testimony from competent and trustworthy observers who have had exceptional opportunity to know the conditions about which they write. Each man speaks for himself and the viewpoints represented in this volume will be found to be quite divergent. This indicates perhaps that the different observers have seen things from different angles and thus their various accounts may blend to produce a more harmonious and complete picture in our own minds. It is believed they will be found worthy of careful consideration.

One of the trouble spots on the earth for the last century has been the district about the eastern Mediterranean. If some solution can be found which will make it possible for the peoples of this region to adopt a civilization which will correspond to the opportunities offered by nature, it will be a blessing to the world. The final development of this country, moreover, would make it easier to work out some basis of harmony in the tangled situation which confronts us in mid-Europe. Probably no one believes that the Slavic states will fail in the long run to find some basis of

union. This will in turn make possible peace and prosperity in the great Danube valley.

Russia is a mystery; none the less interesting and fascinating because so mysterious. Reports with reference to conditions in Russia are so divergent, the judgments of observers vary so greatly, that our final judgment must be suspended until the scene clears somewhat. The form of government adopted by the Russians is primarily their own concern. The principles, however, which animate that government in its dealings with the rest of the world are matters of no little importance to us here.

Lack of space prohibits consideration of other areas of the earth where conditions are today unsettled.

The fourth part of the present volume deals with a very different type of questions, but they are all questions growing out of the interrelations of nations. How our industries are to be organized; how our foreign trade policies are to be developed; how the control of the sea is to be maintained; are matters of no little concern to us all. The last section presents careful consideration of the League of Nations as now proposed. Whether or not the constitution, as outlined at Versailles, is ideal, is not the main question. The big question is, I take it, whether or not it is a workable compromise. Our own American Constitution is highly exalted. Yet when it was adopted it satisfied very few people and the change of a handful of votes in states like Pennsylvania and New York would have defeated it. The courts have found it possible to introduce elements not contained in the written document. In spite of the great changes in conditions in the United States our experience has shown us that it proves the basis for substantial and harmonious adjustment. All the details of the plan proposed at Versailles are not known. When they are it is obviously the duty of our government to consider them most carefully to determine whether or not we should bind ourselves to accept them. The papers here presented both support and criticize the plan now outlined.

The editor in charge believes that the papers will be found deserving of careful consideration by all who are seeking to obtain information on these great current problems. He believes that by the publication of such a volume the Academy justifies its

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existence. The Academy as such has no viewpoint on any question, but it seeks to secure men of the best thought and widest experience who can give the rest of us the benefit of their information. The members of the Academy owe the contributors a great debt of thanks for their generous participation in the Academy work.

**CARL KELSEY.**